

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for interactively selecting a product in a networked environment, the method comprising:
- providing a product criterion to a client within a page, the product criterion including a plurality of possible selections;
 - receiving one of the plurality of possible selections from the client; and
 - providing product information to the client within the page, the product information including information related to the one of the plurality of possible selections received from the client; and comparing the one of the plurality of possible selections to one or more other ones of the plurality of possible selections to whereby assist a user at the client may in determine determining whether to purchase a product that includes the one of the plurality of possible selections.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a purchase order from the client and fulfilling the purchase order.
3. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the product information includes information comparing the one of the plurality of possible selections to one or more other ones of the plurality of possible selections.~~
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the product criterion includes an objective characteristic of the product.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the product criterion includes a subjective characteristic of the product.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a category selection from the client and, in response thereto, providing category information to the client, the category information including the product criterion.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a product selection set to the client, the product selection set including one or more products that conform to the one of the plurality of possible selections.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the client includes a hypertext transfer protocol client and the product selection set includes a list of hyperlinks to product descriptions for the one or more products included in the product selection set.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the product criterion ~~is~~ includes ~~at least one of a requirement category related to~~ at least one of: a product feature, an attribute, ~~or~~ and a usability need.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
tracking a user session, the user session including a change from a first one of the plurality of possible selections to a second one of the plurality of possible selections; and
applying fuzzy logic to the change in order to determine the production selection set.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein inferences concerning user preferences are made based upon a selection history.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein inferences concerning user preferences are made based upon a user profile.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the product ~~is~~ includes at least one of a good and a service.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the product ~~is~~ includes at least one of a financial product or a financial service.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for interactively selecting a product in a networked environment, the computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium and including instructions to cause a computer to:

~~computer-executable code to~~ provide a product criterion to a client within a page, the product criterion including a plurality of possible selections;

~~computer-executable code to~~ receive one of the plurality of possible selections from the client; and

~~computer-executable code to~~ provide product information to the client within the page, the product information including information related to the one of the plurality of possible selections; and comparing the one of the plurality of possible selections to one or more other ones of the plurality of possible selections to whereby assist a user at the client ~~may in determine determining~~ whether to purchase a product that includes the one of the plurality of possible selections.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for interactively selecting a product in a networked environment, the system comprising:

first providing means for providing a product criterion to a client within a page, the product criterion including a plurality of possible selections;

receiving means for receiving one of the plurality of possible selections from the client; and

second providing means for providing product information to the client within the page, the product information including information related to the one of the plurality of possible selections; and comparing the one of the plurality of possible selections to one or more other ones of the plurality of possible selections to whereby assist a user at the client ~~may in determine determining~~ whether to purchase a product that includes the one of the plurality of possible selections.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A database for use with an interactive product selector, the database including:~~ The system of claim 19, wherein the server is configured to display within the page one or more of:

a first field, the first field including product category information that identifies a category to which the record product relates;

a second field, the second field including a criterion for the category;

a third field, the third field including a text of a question relating to the criterion;

a fourth field, the fourth field including a plurality of options, each option representing a possible selection for the criterion;

a fifth field, the fifth field identifying a control that specifies how the plurality of options are presented to a client; and

a sixth field, the sixth field including selection guidance relating to each one of the plurality of options.

18. (Currently Amended) The database system of claim 17, wherein the server is configured to display within the page further comprising a seventh field, the seventh field including links to one or more additional criteria to be presented for each one of the plurality of options.

19. (Currently Amended) An A system ~~interactive product selector~~ for assisting a user with a product selection, the system selector comprising:

~~a database and a client connected in a communicating relationship with the database, the database including storing~~ a plurality of product criteria and, for each product criterion, ~~the database storing~~ a plurality of options, and

a server in communication with the database and the client configured to:

based on a request from a client, retrieve a group of product criteria and an associated group of options from the database, ~~and the client configured to~~ display the group of the product criteria and an associated group of options within a page,

based on a selection of an option from the client, retrieve product information from the database, ~~and the client further configured to modify the group of product criteria in response to a selection of an option, thereby providing a modified group, and to display the modified group~~

display the product information within the page, the product information including information related to the selected option and comparing the selected option to one or more other options to assist a user at the client in determining whether to purchase a product that includes the selected option.

20. (Cancelled) ~~The selector of claim 19 wherein the client modifies the group of product criteria by communicating the selection to a server and, in response thereto, receiving the modified group from the server.~~

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21. (Currently Amended) The selector system of claim ~~20~~ 19 wherein the client server is further configured to retrieve from the database, based on a selection by the client of for one or more of the options, one or more next criteria, the next criteria specifying one or more criteria to be added to the ~~modified group, the client interpreting a selection of the one of the options to modify the group of product criteria according to the next criteria.~~

22. (New) A method comprising:

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presenting a page including a product criterion associated with two or more options,
receiving from a client a selection of one of the two or more options, and
based on the selection, updating the page to include the product criterion, the associated two or more options, an indicator of the selection, and information related to the selected option and comparing the selected option to one or more different options to assist a user in determining whether to purchase a product including the selected option.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein updating the page includes:

updating the page to include a first portion and at least a second non-overlapping portion, the first portion including the product criterion, the associated two or more

selections, and the indicator of the one of the two or more selections, and the second non-overlapping portion including the information related to the selection.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the information indicates a quantity of available products associated with the selection.

25. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the information indicates a quantity of available products associated with the selection.

26. (New) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the information indicates a quantity of available products associated with the selection.
